SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 12 SHOPPERS DRUG MART

DANCE WITH A POINTE
NEW BALLET EXPLORES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
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WORK IT!
THOUSANDS FLOCK TO JOB FAIR
{page 4}

LONDON
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Thursday, February 16, 2012
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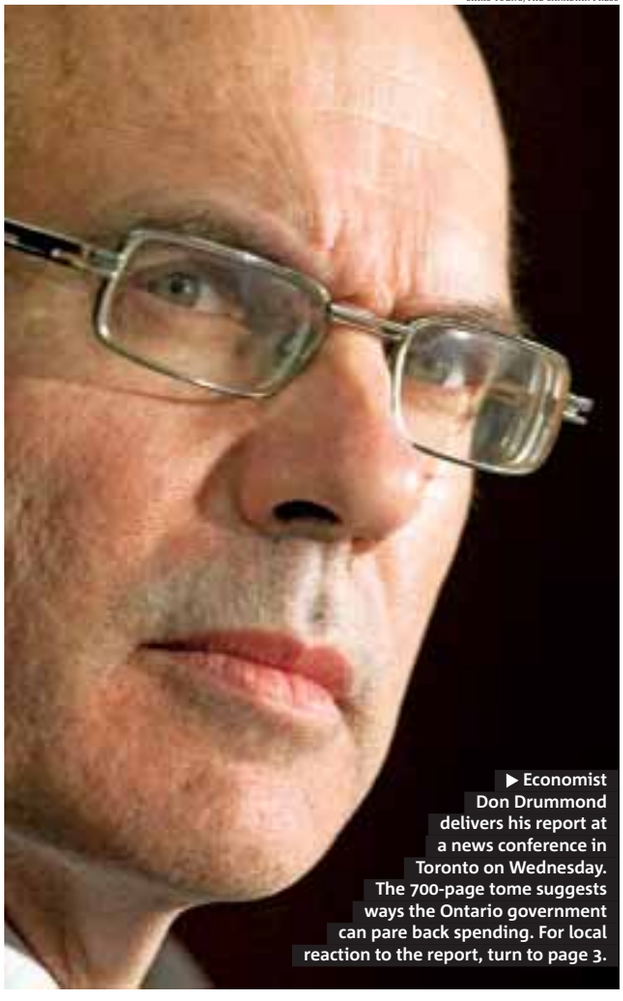
News worth sharing.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Economist Don Drummond delivers his report at a news conference in Toronto on Wednesday. The 700-page tome suggests ways the Ontario government can pare back spending. For local reaction to the report, turn to page 3.

Bitter medicine for Ontarians

▶ Drummond report recommends bigger classes, higher utility, parking fees ▶ Scrap 10 per cent rebate on hydro, report says

Bigger class sizes, higher electricity and water bills and new parking fees at public-transit stations are among the bitter pills deficit-ridden Ontario must swallow to avoid the same fate as debt-plagued Greece, economist Don Drummond warned Wednesday.

Unless all 362 of his recommendations are implemented, Canada's most populous province will double its deficit by 2017-18 and raise its debt to a staggering $411 billion — a little more than half its gross domestic product, Drummond predicted.

"Ontario's finances do not yet constitute a crisis, and with early strong action a crisis can be averted," the report says.

Ontario's debt-to-GDP ratio has more than doubled to 35 per cent since the late 1980s, putting it on par with the three Maritime provinces. Only Quebec has a higher ratio — 50 per cent — but that's exactly where Ontario is headed if nothing is done to balance the books, Drummond warned.

Drummond Report

Some of the recommendations:

- **Cap growth of health-care** spending at 2.5 per cent each year to 2017-18.
- **Increase home-based care.**
- **Make higher-income seniors pay** more toward the cost of drugs.
- **Freeze doctors' salaries.**
- **Cancel the full-day kindergarten** program, or delay full implementation from 2014-15 to 2017-18.
- **Increase the average class size to** 24 from 22 in Grades 9 to 12 and to 26 from 24.5 in Grades 4 to 8.
- **Cap growth in social-services** spending at 0.5 per cent each year to 2017-18.
- **Begin charging for parking at GO** Transit lots.
- **Charge more to recover the full** cost of water and wastewater services.
- **Eliminate the Ontario Clean** Energy Benefit "as quickly as possible."

If the Liberals don't heed his advice, but instead stick to their current plan to slay the deficit by 2017-18, they will still end up with a $30.2-billion shortfall, Drummond said.

Ontario's debt is still "relatively small" by international standards and its spending "is neither out of control nor wildly excessive." But "unprecedented" action must be taken over the next six years before the province drowns in red ink, the report says.

Ontario needs to cap annual growth in program spending at just 0.8 per cent, which would slash real program spending by 16.2 per cent for every man, woman and child, the report advises. About one-third of Drummond's recommendations are directed at health care.

"Our message will strike many as profoundly gloomy," the report says. "It is one that Ontarians have not heard, certainly not in the recent election campaign, but one this commission believes it must deliver." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Digesting Drummond's report will take time: Official

Health minister says only time will tell how recommendations affect us

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Months in the making and thick as a novella, the impacts of Don Drummond's suggestions for slashing Ontario's deficit can't be digested in a day, local officials said.

Nor can — or will — they be implemented that way, Health Minister and London MPP Deb Matthews said Wednesday.

"This is advice to (policymakers). Now it's our turn as government to do our due diligence, to listen to comments on the report," Matthews said. "We will move forward in the (2012) budget on some of the recommendations. Others will require more time and more study."

While the Drummond commission's report covers the gamut from education to public utilities, health care is among its main topics. Many of the group's suggestions fall in line with a health-care "action plan" Matthews rolled out last month.

The Ontario Health Coalition has been critical of Drummond's work, saying it was done behind closed doors without true public engagement.

"I really do think that these tough fiscal times are forcing us to make the changes we all know need to be made anyway."
HEALTH MINISTER DEB MATTHEWS

That message continued as the report was released. There was no "healthy debate" about the recommendations, said Jeff Hanks, who represents the coalition's London chapter.

The Liberal-hired commission is "manipulative" and an effort to sidetrack people from planned cuts, he said, adding that deep cuts border "on negligence."

If Drummond and others behind the report sought advice from a wide array of people, as some politicians have suggested, they weren't the "right" people, Hanks said.

"Did he talk to nurses, physicians?" he said. "When they finally met with the Ontario Health Coalition ... it was like the report was already written."

Low. Anthem

▶ Low Anthem's lead singer Ben Miller rolls out some tunes Wednesday at APK Live at 40 Wellington St.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

U.S.band gets some stage time

The Providence, R.I., band was originally scheduled as a supporting act for City and Colour's concert at Centennial Hall. When that show was postponed until March 28, APK Live and 379 Collective, a London event-management company, rallied to give Low Anthem some stage time.

Call to blogger's boss was status check: Coun.

It could be described as the phone call that shook London. Or at least city hall.

But as Coun. Sandy White takes flak on social-media sites and from leaders of some social-service agencies, the person who fielded the call in question says it didn't necessarily make him uncomfortable.

White was "professional" and "cordial," Scott Courtice, chairman of the Emerging Leaders' board of directors, said in emails.

Emerging Leaders is a non-profit that aims to retain and develop pools of talent in London.

The councillor called Courtice last week after Sean Quigley, a social activist and executive director of Emerging Leaders, posted a blog criticizing city council's support of putting less money toward affordable housing.

During the call, White asked Courtice if Quigley was speaking on behalf of Emerging Leaders or if his views were personal.

"I was able to clarify that he was speaking as a citizen and not on behalf of the organization.... She did not request that any action be taken with respect to Sean's employment," Courtice said Wednesday.

Some say White overstepped her bounds and the call could be seen as a city official trying to "intimidate" a group that receives city funding. Courtice said he never got that impression.

METRO FILE

▶ Sandy White

"I do think it would have been preferable for (White and Quigley) to have discussed this between themselves, then we wouldn't be having this conversation," he said.

White said her call to Emerging Leaders — and another to the Glen Cairn Community Centre where Quigley used to work — was meant more to smooth out any lingering friction. ANGELA MULLINS

1 news

Western University and the University Students' Council have announced that the 2012 USC Elections are deemed invalid. Scan code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

Josh Dueck, Kimberley, B.C.'s newly famous paraplegic stunt skier, hits the Ellen show. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Competition fierce at London job fair

Nearly 3,500 take a shot with companies ranging from local call centres to construction firms

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

About 1,600 jobs and almost double the number of applicants.

That was the scenario Wednesday at Employment Ontario's London job fair.

Mike Depoorter, of London, didn't have to dig too deep to sum up what that means. "In one sense, it's almost comforting: You're not the only out there (looking for a job)," the 52-year-old said. "At the same time, it's sad."

Left jobless by the closure of Ford's St. Thomas assembly plant, Depoorter was hoping to catch a break Wednesday. He arrived at the Western Fair District 45 minutes before the job fair began and was 20th in line.

50
Number of companies participating in Wednesday job fair.

When the first round of job hunters flooded through the doors at 9:30 a.m., about 1,000 people were in line.

"We let 400 people in, and it hardly made a dent," said Brian Malott, a fair coordinator from the London Employment Help Centre.

Given the slow economy, organizers had expected demand to be high, and made some changes to the fair's format in an attempt to help more people.

The fair — marking its 10th year — previously included booths for employers and groups that provide services to the unemployed. This year, space for service providers was limited and more businesses were brought on board, Malott said.

Organizers also focused on making sure each of the businesses on hand had positions to fill.

Pitching himself to potential employers in person was a bit new to Aaron Rankin, 28, of Woodstock. He, like several others, said he's willing to pack up and leave Ontario if doing so means finding work. "It's the first time I've been laid off," Rankin said. "I've never been unemployed."

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ Mike Depoorter, 52, of London, left, takes a business card from Home Depot's Josh Dowswell on Wednesday during Employment Ontario's London job fair at the Western Fair District. Depoorter and thousands of others flocked to the fair, with a line forming more than an hour before doors opened.

Police suspect rash of car fires related

METRO FILE

London police suspect a rash of recent car fires are related

Police are looking for information regarding seven car fires over the past few weeks.

On Wednesday at about 12:07 a.m., police responded to a report of a car fire on Crystal Crescent. About seven minutes later, they were called to a second car fire, on Admiral Drive. A third car fire was later reported on Southdale Road East at 3 a.m.

On Jan. 29, police responded to four other car fires — two were on Edgeworth Avenue, one on Whitney Street and one on Andover Road. These fires also occurred in the early-morning hours.

Contact info

If you have information on this investigation, call London police at 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Information can also be sent online at londoncrimestoppers.com

There have been no injuries reported and the total damage is estimated at $91,000.

Police continue to examine these fires to determine if there is any connection.

METRO

Vandalism meeting at library

Coun. Bill Armstrong, pictured, will host a meeting Thursday night from 6:30 to 8 as a followup to a previous discussion about increased neighbourhood vandalism.

The meeting will take place at the Argyle-East London Library (2016 Dundas St.).

Representatives from the London police and Neighbourhood Watch will also participate in the meeting. METRO

2nd
This is Coun. Bill Armstrong's second public meeting about neighbourhood vandalism.

Gun-registry bill passes House

On life support after Tory win in Commons Senate will pull plug

Federal Tories erupted in cheers Wednesday after finally securing House of Commons approval to scrap the controversial long-gun registry.

The Harper government used its majority to pass the bill by a vote of 159-130, with the support of two maverick New Democrats — John Rafferty and Bruce Hyer.

All other NDP, Liberal, Bloc Québécois and Green MPs voted against it.

"Many of us have waited for this day for a very long time," said Public Safety Minister Vic Toews.

Toews said the registry — created by Jean Chrétien's Liberal government after the massacre of 14 women at Montreal's École Polytechnique in 1989 — is "a billion-dollar boondoggle" that does nothing but penalize law-abiding hunters and farmers.

"It does nothing to help put an end to gun crime, nor has it saved one Canadian life," he argued.

The vote effectively puts the registry on life support. All that remains is for the Senate to pull the plug.

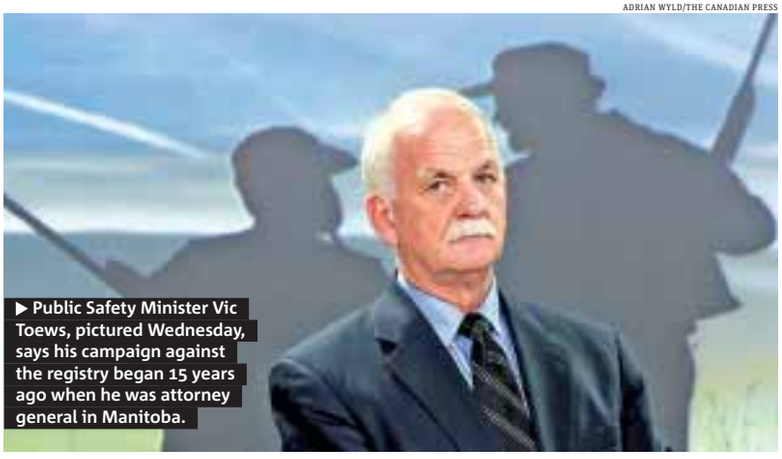
Since the Tories enjoy a commanding majority in the upper chamber as well, the registry's fate is sealed.

Women's groups and victims of gun violence expressed outrage.

Quebec says the moment the bill is enacted, the province will launch court action to prevent registry records from being destroyed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Public Safety Minister Vic Toews, pictured Wednesday, says his campaign against the registry began 15 years ago when he was attorney general in Manitoba.

Trouble in store?

What will be the fate of maverick New Democrats John Rafferty and Bruce Hyer for defying the party's line on the gun registry?

- Interim NDP leader Nycole Turmel said there will be "consequences" for them.
- But it's unclear what more she can do to the pair, who also broke ranks when the registry bill was put to a second reading vote last November.
- At that time, Turmel suspended their travel privileges and banned them from participating in question period, sitting on committees or making public statements.

Battle over mandatory sentences brewing

The Harper government is keeping its powder dry in the face of a court judgment that delivered a broadside to mandatory minimum sentences.

An Ontario Superior Court judge ruled this week that sending a first-time offender to prison for three years for possessing a loaded, illegal gun is "cruel and unusual punishment."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper told the Commons on Tuesday: "I think Canadians believe the courts have not been tough enough in dealing with gun crime."

With mandatory minimum drug and sex sentences awaiting passage by the Senate, the battle is set to begin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gasp! He'll walk a tightrope over the Falls

DAVID DUPREY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Nik Wallenda says he feels "like I'm on top of the world" after getting the green light for his Niagara walk.

Daredevil Nik Wallenda is eager to walk the walk after getting approval for his plan to cross Niagara Gorge on a tightrope.

The Niagara Parks Commission board gave its thumbs-up on Wednesday, reversing an earlier decision against the stunt.

Wallenda says he'll walk along a cable, five centimetres in diameter, stretched across the gorge from the U.S. to Canada.

The board says it now has 45 days to work out details — including a date for the walk — with the man who calls himself "King of the High Wire."

Wallenda, 32, had been hoping for a day in July or August, but the commission is looking at June, before the busy tourist season begins.

The tightrope walker, who is descended from the famous circus performers The Flying Wallendas, saw his request turned down in December.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation last year allowing Wallenda to walk over the famed gorge.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

High-wire cash

- A study has suggested that live TV coverage of the event could help generate a $120-million shot in the arm to Niagara's economy.
- An official said the board will consider requests for such events only once every 20 years, and only by skilled professionals.

REGIME CHANGE?

Syria's president calls for national vote

As Syrian forces stepped up their assault Wednesday on rebellious cities, President Bashar Assad ordered a referendum, set for Feb. 26, on a new constitution that would create a multiparty system in a country that has been ruled by his autocratic family dynasty for 40 years.

Assad's regime is touting the new constitution as the centrepiece of reforms aimed at calming Syria's upheaval.

But after 11 months of bloodshed, with well over 5,000 dead in the regime's crackdown on protesters and rebels, Assad's opponents say the referendum and reforms are not enough and that the country's strongman must go.

The White House also dismissed the referendum.

Press secretary Jay Carney called the move "laughable" in light of ongoing brutality by the Syrian military, and said it "makes a mockery" of the uprising.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FERNANDO ANTONIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A woman grieves outside Comayagua prison, where a fire broke out early Wednesday.

'We're going to die' — jail fire kills 300

A fire started by an inmate tore through an overcrowded prison in Honduras, burning and suffocating screaming men in their locked cells as rescuers desperately searched for keys.

Officials confirmed 358 people were killed in the world's deadliest prison fire in a century.

The local governor told reporters Wednesday that an inmate called her moments before the blaze broke out, screaming: "I will set this place on fire and we are all going to die!"

Comayagua Gov. Paola Castro said she called the Red Cross and fire brigade immediately.

But firefighters said they were kept outside for half an hour by guards who fired their guns in the air, thinking they had a riot or a breakout on their hands.

Officials have long held little control over conditions inside many Honduran prisons, where inmates have unfettered access to cellphones and other contraband.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREEK CRISIS

Eurozone doubts persist over bailout plan

PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos

Greece has made progress convincing the rest of the eurozone that it should get a $170-billion US bailout — but the country's austerity efforts will need much tighter surveillance, the chairman of the eurozone's finance ministers said Wednesday.

During a three-hour conference call between the finance chiefs of the 17 countries that use the euro, the ministers received assurances from Greece that it had found a further 325 million euros in cuts on top of austerity measures already agreed on.

However, in a sign of the deep distrust that has built up — especially among rich euro nations such as Germany, the Netherlands and Finland — Jean-Claude Juncker, the prime minister of Luxembourg, who also chairs the finance ministers' meetings, said better surveillance mechanisms had to be set up before new aid could be released.

"Further considerations are necessary regarding the specific mechanisms to strengthen the surveillance of program implementation and to ensure that priority is given to debt servicing," Juncker said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa online business among Top 10 in the world

Retail sales for commerce software company's e-stores rocket to $270M in 2011 from $130M in 2010

When web shoppers buy a plush Angry Birds toy, a Foo Fighters or LMFAO T-shirt, or something from Encyclopedia Britannica, it helps fuel a small but growing Ottawa company that once sold snowboards before getting into the e-store business.

That company is Shopify, which this week was named by Fast Company magazine as one of the 10 most innovative retail businesses in the world.

Co-founder Tobias Lutke created Shopify after realizing back in 2005 just how difficult and expensive it was to launch a web business. After figuring it would cost at least $100,000 to get his snowboard store online, Lutke decided the company ought to design its own e-commerce software.

He quickly realized there was a much better business in helping other entrepreneurs sell their wares online.

"Today, almost six years later, we have over 20,000 active stores selling one or more products every month in more than 80 countries," said Harley Finkelstein, Shopify's chief platform officer.

The company believes there's a lot of growth to come, given that online sales still represent just a tiny fraction of overall retail revenues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Harley Finkelstein, chief platform officer of the Ottawa-based e-commerce company Shopify.

Shopify stats

- The company pitches itself as a simple, low-cost tool to start and host a web store: If you can handle email, you're technically savvy enough to create your own online store with Shopify.
- Pricing starts at $29 a month with a two per cent transaction fee, and maxes out at $179 monthly with no transaction fee.
- Shopify's biggest coup to date is signing up Rovio, the maker of popular mobile game Angry Birds.

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News in brief

Canadian home sales down in January

Canadian home sales posted their biggest monthly decline in a year and a half in January, suggesting the long-expected market slowdown may finally be on its way.

The Canadian Real Estate Association said Wednesday that sales of existing homes fell 4.5 per cent to a seasonally-adjusted 38,294 in January from 40,115 the previous month. It was the first monthly decline since August 2011.

The monthly decline reversed a string of month-over-month increases in the fourth quarter of 2011, CREA said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Target Canada partners with Starbucks

Discount retailer Target Corp. is partnering with Starbucks to bring coffee shops into its new Canadian stores.

The American chain picked the Seattle-based coffee company to open in the majority of its up to 135 Target stores, it said Wednesday.

The agreement extends the 12-year relationship between Target and Starbucks in the United States.

Target plans to open its first Canadian stores in 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas	Gold
+ 7.56 (12,362.03)	+ 0.04¢ (100.09¢ US)	+ $1.06 US ($101.80 US)	$2.43 US (- 11¢ US)	$1,728.10 US (+ $10.40 US)

PAT WELLENBACH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

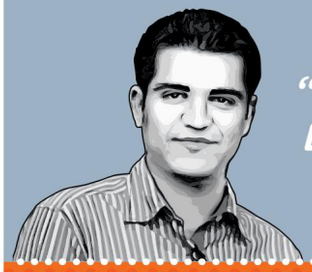
▶ The chips will be among Kellogg's snacks, along with Keebler, Cheez-It and Special K Cracker Chips.

Kellogg buys Pringles brand for $2.7B US

Troubled snack-food maker Diamond Foods and Procter & Gamble have called off their $1.5-billion US deal for Diamond to buy the Pringles brand.

Cereal maker Kellogg is swooping in and made a deal of $2.7 billion US to purchase the brand.

With Diamond out of the picture, the Pringles brand is headed to Kellogg. The company said the transaction will help to strengthen its snack business, which it is trying to make as big globally as its cereal business. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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SURVIVAL OF THE KINDEST

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

If Canada is known for one thing, it's a history of excellent game shows.

That's why the creators of Survivor, which is currently airing its 24th season, decided the 25th anniversary season would be filmed in its most treacherous location ever! Here's the transcript.

SURVIVOR: CANADA!

[A beaver growls. The McKenzie brothers chant.]

Bob and Doug: Koo-loo-koo-koo-koo-koo-koo-koooo!

Host Jeff Probst: Welcome. For the next two months, a group of American strangers will be stranded ... here ... in "Canada" — a Grizzly-infested peninsula somewhere north of Minnesota. Let's meet our castaways. First — Jimmy, a retired military officer who's about to snap.

Jimmy: You'll all be sorry! The camera crews can't protect you forever!

Probst: Amanda, an exotic dancer known for her enormous wits.

Amanda: My cousin Mary lives here. Do you know her?

Probst: Agnes, a sweet old woman who will be eaten alive by the other contestants, perhaps literally.

Agnes: Let's all play fair.

Probst: And Vance, who inexplicably believes this show makes him a star.

Vance: Hey, America! How you doin'?

Probst: The contestants will be split into groups whose names reflect the local culture: Team Toque and Team Chesterfield. The first competition is a Great Canadian Challenge: Castaways must get their frostbite treated through Medicare. And go!

[The contestants stand in line for three months.]

Probst: Oooh, time's up. I'm afraid nobody wins immunity. And now let's watch as contestants have some introspective time alone with a camera crew and 13 million viewers.

Vance: Everything's good. If I lose, I can get my break in Canadian cinema. That exists, right?

Amanda: It's weird here. Canada's like a whole other country, you know?

Agnes: Everyone's been so nice. Even those squeegee kids who stole our things were very polite.

Jimmy: You took my gun! What kind of place is this?

Probst: It's time for Tribal Council! The results have been counted and, in true Canadian fashion, only one of you voted! Agnes is eliminated.

Agnes: I voted myself off. You all deserve it more.

Probst: Because this is Canada, the tribe must form a subcommittee that will report back on what went wrong for Agnes. Also, Agnes has the right to a lengthy appeals process. The tribe has spoken, Agnes. You can't win the appliances.

Vance: Appliances? What about the million dollars?

Probst: No, sorry, the prize is a lovely Whirlpool washer and dryer, making it the largest award ever on a Canadian game show! That's all for this week. Join us next time, when our castaways face their toughest challenge: One hour with Nickelback! Who will survive?

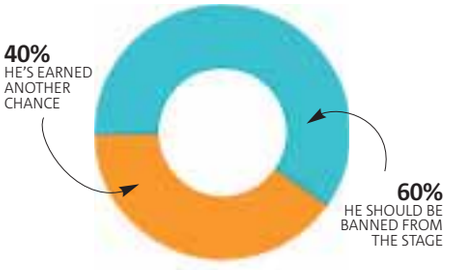
All: We quit.

Probst: It's still better than Bumper Stumpers.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What do you think of Chris Brown performing at this year's Grammys



Local tweets

- **@DeniseTesta:** On the #menu tonight #Ldnont -stir fry with jasmine rice and tortillas for wrapping. #simpledinner
- **@armstrngdouglas:** Happy National Flag of Canada Day! #ldnont #canada
- **@marimateen:** #city&colour is postponed till March 28th #ldnont #notimpressed NOW WHAT
- **@M_Trevithick:** I say I want to become more involved in the London (#ldnont) community, but I don't actually act upon it. I'm terrible for that.
- **@melanspach:** Why is there a DJ in the UCC basement playing loud dance music at 9:55am? #uwo
- **@humpyblokker:** Spending time in the shadows of engineers is a dangerous sport #westernu #peoplestaringeverywhere
- **@MitchTheGuns:** At #Fanshawe getting ready to wright my first exam :s hope i do good
- **@danmcmurray:** Do girls in leggings and puffy hip length coats realize they look like frogger? #uwo
- **@nsoave:** For the 4th straight class my professor is showing us a movie. Not that I don't enjoy multimedia in the class room, just not this much. #uwo

ROBERT NEMETI / SOLENT

Daily Zoom

Egg-cellent armour

Tank built out of egg cartons

LONDON. It looked like shell warfare at England's Imperial War Museum after the unveiling of a "tank" made out of egg cartons. Sculptor Stuart Murdoch's carton-made mockup of a Challenger II vehicle was built to launch a national egg-and-spoon race organized by Eggs for Soldiers, a charity that raises money for injured soldiers. MWN

60 seconds

All those egg boxes. You must have made many omelettes.

Actually, the egg boxes arrived empty! We were sent over 8,000 egg boxes in the end. There were moments when we didn't want to see another egg box again.

How do egg boxes compare to real steel?

I was very surprised how sturdy they were. It wasn't a problem for me to stand on the structure. Its strength must be due to his conical shape inside.

What was the most difficult thing about making this tank?

Getting it through the door at London's Imperial War Museum. The door was too small, so we had to break it up into separate sections to get it in.

Will it stay there forever?

No. It's going outside on public display on March 4 for one day. After that, I have no idea what will happen to it. My dream is to see it retired at the Tank Museum in Dorset, southwest England.

What other curiosities have you made?

The world's largest cork — two metres high, 1.3 metres in diameter. Three tonnes of ground cork was sent from Portugal. MWN

metro
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2 scene

Brown

Country singer Miranda Lambert doesn't get why controversial R&B star Chris Brown was allowed to perform twice at the Grammys on Sunday. She tweeted on Monday: "He beat on a girl...not cool that we act like that didn't happen." Brown beat up then-girlfriend Rihanna the night before the Grammys in 2009. He pled guilty to an assault charge and was sentenced to five years of probation and six months of community labour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cinephiles celebrate attention to film preservation in 'The Artist' and 'Hugo'

Ballet for beaten women

Ghosts of Violence — a performance aimed at raising awareness — comes to London

ALEKSANDR ONYSHCHENKO/FOR METRO

An innovative multimedia ballet exploring the issue of domestic violence makes its way to Western University.

BACKSTAGE PASS

MILA PETKOVIC
METRO LONDON

A new multimedia ballet about domestic violence is coming to London for a one-night-only performance.

The Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada will present Ghosts of Violence on Feb. 22 at the Paul Davenport Theatre at Western University.

Artistic director and choreographer Igor Dobrovolskiy created the piece for a fundraiser to build awareness about domestic violence and honour women killed by abuse. The full-length work debuted at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on Feb. 15, 2011.

Megan Walker, executive director of London Abused Women's Centre, saw the ballet in Ottawa. She thinks it's a good way to reach out to men and women who may not even be aware of the problem.

"The stories of the women in the ballet are stories I've heard over and over again in my office," says Walker. "They reflect the tactics of power and control that abusers use with women every day."

"The stories of the women in the ballet are stories I've heard over and over again in my office."
MEGAN WALKER

Every six days a woman is killed in Canada by domestic violence, according to Statistics Canada.

Jennifer Morse, who lost her mother to a murder-suicide by her stepfather in 1999, attended the ballet with Walker. Morse identified with the characters because she grew up in a violent home.

She thinks using a ballet to explore domestic violence is very innovative, and could potentially reach a different demographic of people who are interested in the arts.

"Nothing like this has ever been done before. Sure we have seen rallies, commercials — but now with this ballet we can visually see what it is like to be in these women's shoes. This is as close as it can get, to see someone act it out on a stage."

Walker says more discussion about domestic violence is the first step towards improving the problem.

"The more we talk about the issue, the more women feel supported in coming forward to get help. There has been a dramatic increase in our service demand, not because of increasing violence but because women are able to reach out for help," says Walker.

The target audience of the ballet is the youth community.

"Everywhere we travel, we do performances at high schools and universities," says Dobrovolskiy. "The younger we open discussion about this, the better."

The ballet's multimedia aspect further adds to its uniqueness.

"It combines dance, music, video images projected onto a huge screen and props on the stage," says Walker. "It makes you feel like you are there in the homes of the women. You don't even have to be a ballet lover to enjoy it."

The performance starts at 8 p.m. Purchase tickets, $45 for adults and $25 for students, online at grandtheatre.com.

Nicolas Cage admits he isn't a vampire

Is Nicolas Cage an immortal creature running around, reinventing himself every 75 years?

People.com reports that Cage denies this unusual rumor, and says he's not an immortal vampire whose image was caught in the Civil-War era. Cage stated as much on David Letterman's Late Show.

"I don't drink blood, and last time I looked in the mirror I had a reflection."

"I don't drink blood and last time I looked in the mirror I had a reflection." NICOLAS CAGE

Cage understands the confusion with the Tennessee man in the 1890 photo. The eBay seller claims the photograph is of a "walking undead/vampire" who "reinvents himself once every 75 years."

"Let me say that there is a resemblance, but how can I be polite about this. It's a somewhat slowed-down version of me," Cage stated,

What a way to burst our blood thirsty bubble. And there goes our True Blood dream of Cage as a real life Civil-War vampire.

KIRSTY STEWART/
METRO WORLD NEWS

METRO WORLD NEWS

On being a villain

Johnny Whitworth talks about being bad and working with Nic Cage in the new Ghost Rider film

HANDOUT

▶ Johnny Whitworth is Blackout in Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance.

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

When you see Johnny Whitworth, the first thing that may come to mind is Empire Records, in which he starred opposite Liv Tyler as the lovesick A.J. Eerily. The actor has barely aged over the past 17 years, but on screen in Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance, he's almost unrecognizable as Blackout, a villainous light-manipulator who makes trouble for Nicolas Cage's flaming-skulled biker.

What can you tell us about how your character, Blackout, is portrayed in the movie without giving too much away?

He's got some cooler powers than in the comic. [In the comics], he was born basically a mutant, and when he went around everything turned black, and then he kind of identified with vampires and had these prosthetic fangs put in and claws, and then he was kind of an assassin kind of guy. In our thing, he actually can control what's going on with the light. It's much cooler.

How is it taking on a villain role?

It's fun. It's challenging just for the aesthetic reasons, and it's fun because villains are fun. Bad guys are more interesting, you know? You have no limitations, really.

And you go up against the Ghost Rider himself, Nicolas Cage. How was that?

It's a pleasure to work with Nic. There's not one particular thing I can elaborate on, you know? I think Nic's a great guy and an amazing craftsman. I dig his work. It's inspiring. What was cool was that I didn't understand anything that was going on in Romania, but we could be in a cab or a restaurant or whatever and we'd hear their language and then, "Nicolas Cage." The only thing I would understand was "Nicolas Cage" and then "ciorbă," which is soup.

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Will Bobby attend Whitney's funeral?

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Whitney Houston's funeral will be held on Saturday at her childhood church, the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, the church pastor said Tuesday night.

The invitation-only funeral will probably be attended by 1,500 or so people, with the public not invited.

But there's one person whose inclusion on the invite list is still up in the air: Houston's ex-husband, Bobby Brown.

Tmz.com reports that the singer is "extremely disappointed" after hearing that several members of Houston's family do not want him to attend Saturday's service.

Apparently, Houston's family isn't "fond of him" (um, understatement of the century, TMZ).

The site reports that Brown wants to go to support Bobbi Kristina, but hasn't "decided on a plan of action yet."

However, we do know Brown will be on the East Coast as he is scheduled to perform with his group New Edition on Saturday at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The Sun's publicist sent out a release yesterday saying that, as of then, Brown was still scheduled to perform.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston

Celebrity tweets

@ladygaga

Been working like a crazy bitch all day. Need to smoke a joint or something; or maybe just a good punch in the face. PROPS PROPS PROPS.

@stephenfry

It's 6.50 am in Sydney. Got an hour or so to wait till the flight to Wellington and then I shall finally be in Hibbety-Hobbity land. Hurrah.

@kathygriffin

Should I have worn underwear???

@alecbaldwin

I want a Grammy. I just want it.

Brand 'back in the saddle'

While Katy Perry unveiled a new angry breakup song at the Grammys over the weekend, soon-to-be ex-husband Russell Brand was reportedly already enjoying the single life, taking in a show at comedy and music venue the Largo in Los Angeles with an attractive young woman by his side, according to The Sun.

After the show, the two retired to his home, and Brand drove her home the next morning.

"Russell is a single man again and starting to move on from Katy," a source tells the newspaper.

"Like any bloke, he had missed female company. He isn't quite back to his old ways yet, but he's very much back in the saddle."

METRO

Russell Brand

Winslet doesn't want to see herself in 3D

Kate Winslet is bracing herself for the 3D re-release of Titanic 15 years after it originally came out.

The actress has already seen 17 minutes of footage, and it wasn't necessarily a pleasant experience.

"I was literally like, 'Oh my God, make it stop. Is that me? Oh my God, that's me. Block my ears, somebody. Somebody club out my senses. Make it f--- ing stop,'" Winslet tells USA Today. "I'm sure I wasn't really a very good actress. Seriously, we are talking about something that happened 15 years ago. It is a very long time ago."

Don't worry, Kate. We have a feeling everyone in the audience will have the exact same reaction.

METRO

▶ Kate Winslet

Brown brushes off his haters

Good work, America. Chris Brown is taking all of the negative attention people have showered on him since Sunday's Grammy Awards to heart and is now on a Twitter rampage about it. He tweeted last night: "HATE ALL U WANT BECUZ I GOT A GRAMMY Now! That's the ultimate F-CK OFF!" You know who else got a Grammy? Milli Vanilli. So don't put yourself in such high esteem there, buddy.

METRO

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

- New York's biannual fashion week strikes a final pose today
- Check out five fabulous shows that had us anxious for next fall to arrive

New York runway roundup

KENYA HUNT & TINA CHADHA
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

GETTY IMAGES

DONNA KARAN COLLECTION

Karan opened with her Casual Luxe collection, which, according to the press notes, was "tailored for the streets of New York" yet on the runway appeared to stem from Balmoral Scotland. These were heavily-layered cold-weather looks with cosy, chunky shearling outerwear: oversized tartan blanket knits and sweeping kilts. It was a strong, covetable collection.

GETTY IMAGES

JASON WU

For Wu, the process of transforming his soft and über-feminine muse into a proper badass force to be reckoned with meant going back to his Chinese roots, and exploring images of the country throughout history from the Qing dynasty to the Mao jacket. That translated into a series of beautifully-executed military coats and jackets loaded with rich Far East details and innovative construction.

GETTY IMAGES

RAG & BONE

As temperatures in New York dropped, Marcus Wainwright and David Neville's dense layering didn't seem like a bad idea. Who wouldn't want a chic and cosy blanket coat to toss over a trouser suit like this strong opening look? The only problem is that heavy layering can only go so far before it adds awkward lumps. Look for their perfectly cool separates and coats in stores, but maybe play with layers before imitating this runway styling.

GETTY IMAGES

MARC JACOBS

Marc Jacobs, New York's most prominent and influential architect of trends, showed a directional collection of multi-layered ensembles that made subtle nods to the Queen's land. From the first look out — a giant, furry Stephen Jones' hat and piled-on outfit that included a cape worn over a voluminous coat on top of a slick, tiled, opalescent, dress over cropped trousers and pilgrim shoes — the show had an air of madcap sobriety to it.

GETTY IMAGES

THAKOON

There was a polished sophistication to Thakoon Panichgul's clothes, best exemplified in the dresses and ruffled coats shift. But there were twists: a coat-dress pinched at the waist seemed prim until the model turned the corner, where sexy black leather cut-outs in the back were revealed. The designer then kicked the feminine factor into high gear with sweet peacock feather embroidery and a palette of bright fuchsia and cranberry.

Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:

NYC here I come! And surprise - the lovely + talented @Joey-Oneil is coming along with me. Hope to grab some mom + daughter time on the job!

▶ Backastage as @CocoRocha gets her Geisha-style make-up applied by MAC's Kabuki for Zac Posen.

▶ J. Crew rocks! Lots of delightful pieces to mix + match...

▶ Betsey Johnson's better than ever at almost 70!!! Says she may be doing a reality show this fall..

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV. JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.

3 life

Face first

Blemish-be-gone

Most of us are told in our teens that outbreaks of blemished skin will cease once we've reached our 20s. But unfortunately for many people, blemishes and excess oil production persist beyond adolescence — and for some it doesn't flare up until adulthood.

So we love that SkinCeuticals has developed an entire line specifically dedicated to taking on adult acne and aging skin. Find out more at skinceuticals.com.

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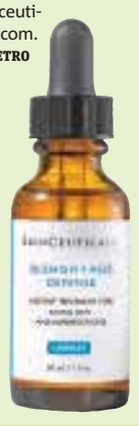

SKINCEUTICALS BLEMISH + AGE DEFENSE

Student designers from Montreal, Toronto and Halifax winners in Telio contest

A bachelor pad on its way up

As our living space gets smaller, we need to get more creative with storage

BED BATH & BEYOND

▶ Under-counter storage

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

With condos getting smaller and our need for consumption ever-growing, it's time to look at displaying our stuff up and off the floors and tables. Freeing up the floor, counters and tabletops is the best way to make your space look more spacious and organized.

Give it a lift

- **Install a floating shelf** above each bedroom door and in upper closets.
- **Stack your towel bars on the wall;** bottom ones for bath towels and upper ones for hand towels.
- **Free up kitchen counter space** with under-cupboard coffee makers and toaster ovens.

Listen up

Investing in wall-hung electronics keeps consoles clutter-free. Just remember to hide the cords. Flat-screen TVs, stereos and speakers are all available to be hung instead of taking up valuable console space. The BeoSound 8 from Bang & Olufsen ($1,200) can be wall-mounted and displays tablets and plays other sound devices.

BANG & OLUFSEN

▶ The BeoSound 8 audio system, Bang & Olufsen

UMBRA

▶ UMBRA's five-hook rack

Entertain it

Creating an entertainment centre doesn't mean adding another cabinet to the living room; simply mount everything under existing cupboards. Under cupboard racks and wall shelving keeps all bar accessories at hand. The 6-bottle Wine And Glass Rack from Bed Bath & Beyond ($40) keeps the well-stocked bar in view at all times.

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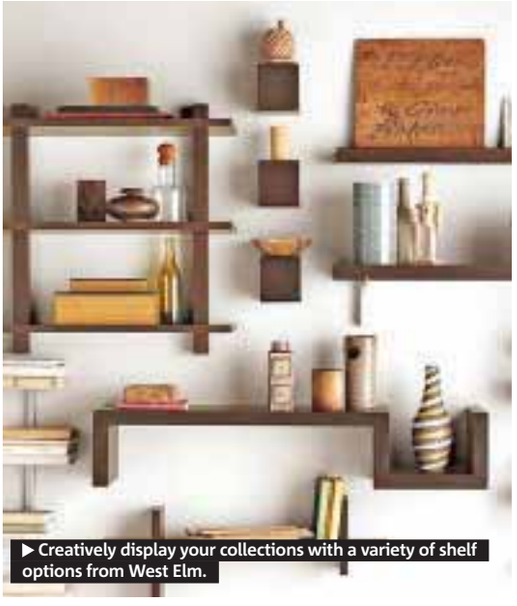

▶ Creatively display your collections with a variety of shelf options from West Elm.

Hang it

Hooks keep everything off the floor. Put them everywhere: behind doors, inside the walls of closets and under the island bar; a great place to hang a purse or shopping bag.

The Flip Coat Rack from UMBRA ($30) has hooks that hinge down when in need and tuck away when not in use. No more sore shoulders on the way to the bathroom at night.

DON'T GET BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER HANGERS

▶ Larger-size clothing needs bigger hangers.

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLESMACPHERSON.COM

Dear Charles the butler,
I am facing a really strange problem. My husband wears leather jackets in size XL. However, the jackets bought from Roots, Danier, etc. come with a hanger that seems to be too small for the XL jackets.

They leave at least two inches of shoulder hanging unsupported by the hanger. The jackets are getting out of shape really quickly. What should I do? Please help.

Thank you,
Trish

Dear Trish,
I have a couple of suggestions that should give you some good solutions for this problem.

Firstly, a strange but good temporary solution would be to cut some paper towel tubes lengthwise and place one on each side of the hanger where the coat hangs, thus elongating the hanger by a few inches to at least give the coat some stability and shape until a proper hanger can be found.

This may be hard to imagine, but the paper towel tube can be adjusted to the length you need and really does work on a short-term basis.

Secondly, look up a larger-size clothing store in your area and see if they will sell you a few oversized hangers that will properly fit the coats.

If that fails, Wm. Prager Ltd., sells hangers to the trade (and my butler school) so they have a very large inventory and are a great Canadian source.

And finally, the Rolls Royce solution is Henry Hanger in New York City. They manufacture any size hanger you could ever want or need and will even put your initials on the hanger should you so choose!

I know this last option is extreme, but I have used them for some of my very fancy clients and they are really good and will solve the problem.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND A MESSAGE TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

Infusing robust Moroccan flavours

- Turkey cutlets and vegetables are imbued with the tastes of the northern African country
- This warming winter dish is best served over steaming Israeli or traditional couscous

Ingredients:

- 250 ml (1 cup) Israeli or traditional couscous
- 5 ml (1 tsp) paprika, divided
- 5 ml (1 tsp) ground cumin, divided
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each sea salt and fresh cracked pepper, divided
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil, divided
- 4 turkey cutlets
- 1 small onion, peeled and sliced
- 2 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 fennel bulb, sliced
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped dried apricots
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) pitted olives, halved
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) orange juice
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) turkey or chicken broth
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) fresh chopped parsley

Preparation:

1. Cook couscous according to package directions.
2. In a resealable bag, combine turkey with 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each of the paprika, cumin, salt and pepper and half of the oil. Marinate for at least 30 minutes and up to 1 day.
3. In a large, non-stick skillet, heat remaining oil over medium-high heat. Brown turkey on both sides and transfer to a plate (it will not be cooked through).
4. Cook onion until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in carrots, fennel and remaining paprika, cumin, salt and pepper and cook for 3 minutes. Sprinkle with apricots and olives, pour in orange juice and broth, scraping up any brown bits from the bottom of the pan. Nestle turkey into vegetables, reduce heat to medium-low to maintain a simmer, cover and cook until turkey is cooked through and vegetables are tender-crisp, about 15 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley and serve over couscous.

ONTARIO TURKEY/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

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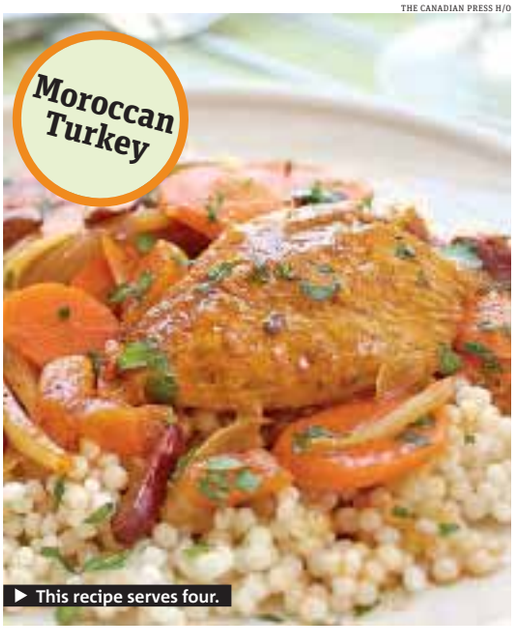

▶ This recipe serves four.

Weekly Cookbook

After spending the last decade and a half at his Michelin-starred San Francisco restaurant developing modern Moroccan cuisine, Mourad Lahlou takes his culinary talents to his book New Moroccan.

The book is anything but a dutifully authentic documentation of Moroccan home cooking. The 100-plus modern recipes are illustrated with food and location photography. Among them are: Lamb Shank with Spiced Prunes and Brown Butter Faro, Chickpea Spread, Grilled Flatbreads and more.

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4 sports

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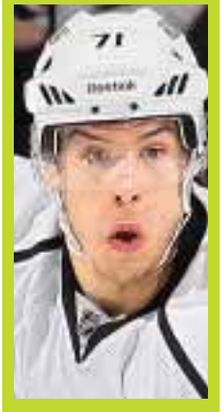

"I've had to earn lots of stuff, nothing's been given to me, but I always had a self belief in myself that one day I'd play in the NHL."

JORDAN NOLAN, WHO SCORED HIS FIRST NHL GOAL LAST WEEKEND IN HIS SECOND GAME WITH THE KINGS, WHO PICKED HIM IN THE SEVENTH ROUND OF THE 2009 DRAFT. NOLAN'S FATHER, TED, PLAYED 78 GAMES IN THE NHL AND WENT ON TO WIN THE JACK ADAMS AWARD AS COACH OF THE YEAR WITH THE BUFFALO SABRES.

Scan code for more sports news.

CHRIS TROTMAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jeremy Lin is passed the ball from his fallen Knicks teammate Tyson Chandler as Jason Thompson of the Sacramento Kings defends on Wednesday night. Lin had 10 points, 13 assists and five rebounds in the 100-85 Knicks win.

Lin mania shows no signs of stopping

Knick is a hoops sensation, from New York to Asia to the White House

Bigger than Shaq? Larger than LeBron? The Knicks as NBA champions?

(Don't laugh too hard at that last one. The odds are getting better, according to one online sports book.)

Nothing seems too inconceivable now after Jeremy Lin's incredible first week as an NBA starter, and the story keeps getting better.

The undrafted player from Harvard made a three-pointer with half a second left Tuesday night to give the Knicks a 90-87 victory at Toronto. The Knicks returned home Wednesday to host Sacramento, looking for a seventh straight victory that would get them back to .500 after an 8-15 start.

Lin joined the rotation only then, starting the last five games, so hold off on making him a Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal or LeBron James just yet. But the Knicks have seen enough to believe this ride may last a while longer.

18-1

Odds given that the Knicks will win the NBA championship on Bovada.lv, down from 40-1 before Lin's run began.

"I don't know when there's an ending. Maybe there won't," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Lin's story has blown straight past the New York sports pages and all their cute headlines like "Va-Lin-tine's Day," all the way to a basketball-crazed continent on the other side of the world, where he's been "kind of like the great Asian hope," said Orin Starn, professor and chair of cultural anthropology at Duke.

Lin has done wonders for shares of Madison Square Garden Inc., the company that owns the Knicks, the Garden and the namesake sports network. The stock has surged nine per cent since Lin began his heroics Feb. 4, reaching an all-time high of $33.18 US earlier this week before retreating slightly to close at $31.91 Wednesday.

"Rangers and Knicks fans do tend to buy the stock when the teams are doing well," said Miller Tabak analyst David Joyce.

And Linsanity has reached America's most powerful basketball fan, with President Barack Obama talking about Lin's winner Wednesday.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Lin was "just a great story, and the president was saying as much this morning."

Asia lost its biggest basketball star when Yao Ming retired last summer, but ratings are up in China, and TV stations around the continent have rushed to add Knicks games to their broadcasts.

"I like Jeremy Lin (more than Yao Ming) because Yao Ming was already famous" when he started playing in NBA, said Taiwanese university student Zhang Gan-yu. "For Lin, it's like nobody had heard of him before. Kobe (Bryant) gave an interview saying he did not know who Lin was. So this is truly a rising star."

Lin is the NBA's first American-born player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent. Starn called his emergence sort of a "coming-out party for Asian-Americans."

"I think it is appealing to a lot of Americans when somebody comes along that seems to break out of this set of stereotypes — and in this case, an Asian-American from the heart of the Silicon Valley," Starn said. "I think Jeremy Lin has this special kind of attraction because he seems to capture this visibility of Asian-Americans."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lions hang on to key players

Wally Buono wasted little time Wednesday retaining two key members of his Grey Cup-winning team.

The B.C. Lions GM highlighted the opening day of CFL free agency by agreeing to terms with veteran defensive backs Dante Marsh and Ryan Phillips. Buono reached a deal with Marsh just before he was scheduled to become a free agent before coming to terms with Phillips roughly two hours after he entered free agency.

CFL free agency kicked off at noon on Wednesday but the top two available players — slotback Andy Fantuz and offensive lineman Brendon LaBatte — remained unsigned Wednesday evening.

However, they were certainly generating a lot of interest.

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats and Saskatchewan Roughriders were said to be in the running for Fantuz, the six-foot-four, 220-pound slotback who was the CFL's outstanding Canadian in 2010. Fantuz missed the first half of last season attending the Chicago Bears camp before suffering an ankle injury after returning to Regina.

Edmonton and Saskatchewan were reportedly both working hard to sign LaBatte. The six-foot-four, 323-pound native of Weyburn, Sask., has spent his entire CFL career with Winnipeg.

LaBatte was a CFL all-star in 2011 and helped Winnipeg reach the Grey Cup. The 25-year-old can play guard or centre although his preference is guard. THE CANADIAN PRESS

$175K

Andy Fantuz is expected to fetch between $175,000 and $200,000 on the open market, which could be too rich for the Argos, who will have to pay quarterback Ricky Ray around $400,000 this season.

Black & silver. Streak

▶ Raptors point guard Jose Calderon watches his Spurs counterpart, Tony Parker, score on a layup in Toronto on Wednesday night.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raptors can't hang with hot Spurs

Tony Parker scored 34 points and had 14 assists as the San Antonio Spurs extended their winning streak to nine games with a 113-106 victory over the Raptors in Toronto on Wednesday.
Jose Calderon had 16 points and 11 assists for Toronto, which lost its fourth game in a row. DeMar DeRozan scored 29 points, while Amir Johnson had 10 points and seven rebounds in the loss.

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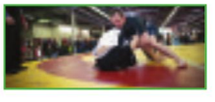

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Stricken Rangers plan to play next match

The financiers trying to save Scottish soccer champion Rangers from liquidation assured fans on Wednesday that the next match against Kilmarnock will go ahead.

The Glasgow club will start Saturday's game 14 points behind city rival Celtic after being docked 10 points for entering financial administration.

Rangers were forced to seek bankruptcy protection over tax debts of nine-million pounds ($14 million) accrued in the nine months of Craig Whyte's ownership.

"We can report we have made very good progress within the first 24 hours of being appointed administrators over Rangers," joint administrators Paul Clark and David Whitehouse said.

"Supporters can be reassured that Rangers will continue as a football club and we hope to reach a stage as soon as possible where the club can emerge from administration."

After "extremely constructive discussions with Strathclyde police," the administrators promised fans that Saturday's home match would be played at Ibrox.

"There might be finger pointing and apportioning of blame, but in the end we are all in it together. We need to stick together and we'll pull through it," Rangers defender Carlos Bocanegra said. "This club has been around for a long time and has a lot of history so it'll be OK. This club has a lot of support around the world." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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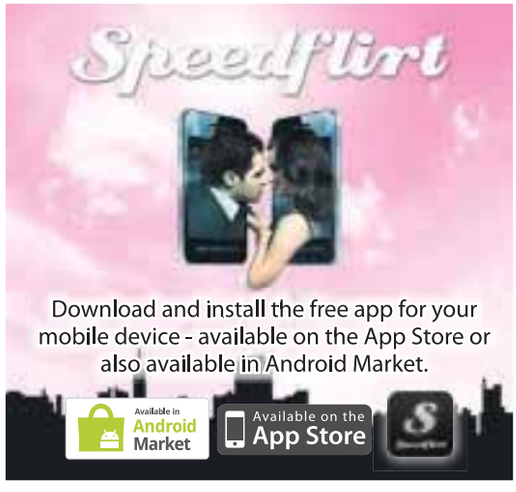
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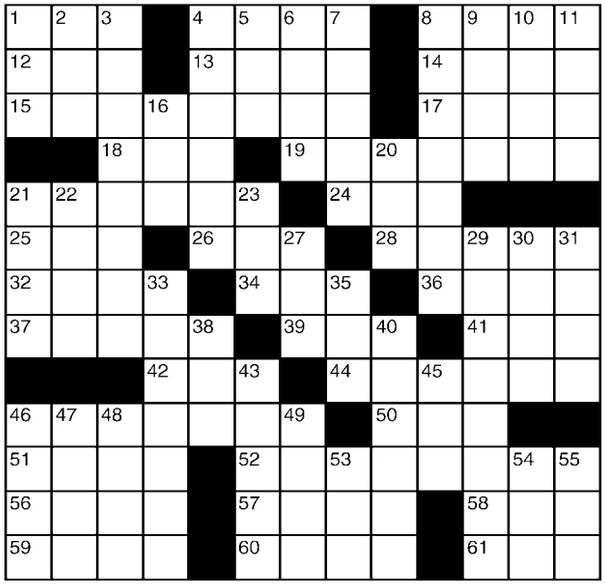

Across

1 Burst
4 Answer an invite
8 Mid-June honorees
12 George's brother
13 — out (supplements)
14 Out of the storm
15 Unimprovable place
17 "— do for now"
18 Back
19 Great commotion
21 "America's Got —"
24 First st.
25 Wall climber
26 Listener
28 Distance down
32 Nap
34 Crazy
36 Avis adjective
37 Basin accessories
39 Pie filling?
41 Deteriorate
42 Last (Abbr.)
44 Political argument
46 Colored like hippie shirts
50 Website section, often
51 Opposed to
52 South American country
56 Old card game
57 Thing
58 Heady brew
59 "South Park" kid
60 Knighted woman
61 Playing marble

Down

1 Spot on a domino
2 "... man — mouse?"
3 Render immobile
4 Given a makeover
5 Tackle moguls
6 Two-piece suit's lack
7 Intellectual pretender
8 Company that merged with Benz in 1926
9 Choir member
10 Sandwich shop
11 Vend
16 Census stat
20 Roulette bet
21 Ocean motion
22 Acknowledge
23 Highlander's hat
27 Aries
29 Strong herbicide
30 Jog
31 Loathe
33 Scholarly
35 Flop
38 Crafty
40 Malign
43 Lukewarm
45 Satchel
46 Chore
47 Black
48 List-ending abbr.
49 Information
53 Sleep phenom
54 Carte lead-in
55 Evergreen type

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

			6	9		8	7	4
				1			6	2
		2				3		
9			7				4	
		4				6		
	3				4			1
		8				2		
3	4			6				
2	7	5		3	1			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	5	2	3	9	6	1	8	7
3	1	7	8	2	4	5	9	6
6	9	8	1	5	7	2	4	3
7	2	3	5	1	8	4	6	9
9	8	6	4	7	2	3	1	5
1	4	5	9	6	3	7	2	8
2	3	1	7	8	9	6	5	4
8	6	4	2	3	5	9	7	1
5	7	9	6	4	1	8	3	2

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Honey
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
You want to take a risk but you are also fearful of making a mistake. If you play safe now, you will surely regret it later on.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Even if those you love think that what you are doing is wrong, they will still help you to do it today.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
The bigger the challenge, the more you will like it today. Even rivals will admire the way you push through against the odds.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Others may say you are expecting too much of yourself but you know you have been expecting too little.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
If the old way of doing things no longer seems to work, by all means try something new.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
This is the perfect time to do something others will be talking about (for good reasons) for years.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
You will do something that does not come naturally. You may discover you have a talent of which you were previously unaware.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Follow your instincts wherever they might lead you and don't worry that some people might think you are mad.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You will have to work hard for other people today and you won't have much time for yourself.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Some things you say over the next 24 hours could have those around you squirming. The truth is the truth and you won't twist it.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Sometimes in life you have to bend the truth a little and that seems to be the case today.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Mercury in your sign linked to expansive Jupiter means you are in excellent form intellectually at the moment. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

SETH WNIG/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID GUTTENFELDER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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